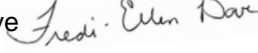


To: DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove   
Administrator

Re: Distribution of Handbook for Youth in Foster Care

## PURPOSE

This memo provides information regarding the distribution of the *Handbook for Youth in Foster Care*. This handbook should be distributed and reviewed with all youth who are placed in out-of-home care (OHC) and those currently in OHC who are 14 years of age or older.

## BACKGROUND

While there are state statutes and policy that guide Child Welfare (CW) practice in Wisconsin, there has not been an effective way of communicating that information to young people living in OHC. Youth removed from their families and placed away from their homes are faced with a great deal of confusion about what is happening to them, about their feelings, and about their future. This guide, initiated by the Wisconsin Youth Advisory Council (W-YAC), is meant to help young people better understand foster care and what they can expect while they are in an OHC placement based on Wisconsin laws and policies. The goal of the W-YAC was to create a youth-friendly way of communicating important information to young people. The handbook provides youth with information on confidentiality, participation in court, available services, preparation for independence, tips on self-advocacy, and expectations they can have of the child welfare (CW) agency, foster home and education system.

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS

At minimum, all youth, age 14 or older, are to receive this information at the time of placement into OHC. CW workers should review the sections with the youth, answering any questions they may have. All youth ages 14 and older that are already in foster care placement should be provided a copy of the handbook by February 28, 2013.

## ACTION SUMMARY

To obtain copies of the Foster Youth Handbook, email Nancee Herheim at [Nancee.herheim@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Nancee.herheim@wisconsin.gov)

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CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Christine A. Lenske  
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Madison, WI 53708-8916  
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E-Mail: [christine.lenske@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christine.lenske@wisconsin.gov)

MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos>

Attachments: [Handbook for Youth in Foster Care - For viewing](#) (PDF)  
[Handbook for Youth in Foster Care - For Printing](#) (PDF)

#memo/dsp/2012/youth in foster care hanbooks.doc